

CLAIMS

1. A manually-operated apparatus for slicing a food product,
2 comprising:

4 a base for supporting the apparatus on an appropriate support
surface;

6 a slotted anvil disposed on top of the base and including a
slotted support surface on which the food product is positioned;

8 first pivot means pivotally mounting the slotted anvil on the
base for pivotal movement between a generally horizontal food-supporting
position and an elevated cleaning position allowing food particles to be
10 cleaned off of the base;

12 a cutting head having a plurality of cutting blades for cutting
the food product; and

14 second pivot means pivotally mounting the cutting head on the
base for pivotal movement between an elevated position allowing the food
product to be positioned on the slotted anvil and a lowered cutting position
16 whereat the cutting blades have sliced through the food product and into
slots in the anvil.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said base is generally flat
2 and includes a generally planar top surface.

3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the slotted support
2 surface of said slotted anvil is generally parallel to the top surface of the
base.

4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said slotted anvil includes pedestal means for engaging the base and elevating the slotted support surface of the anvil above the base.

5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said slotted anvil is a one-piece structure stamped and formed of sheet metal material and includes generally horizontal feet portions at opposite ends of the slotted support surface for engaging the base and generally vertical pedestal portions joining the feet portions to opposite ends of a slotted plate portion forming said slotted support surface.

6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said cutting head comprises a cast metal frame having a central opening spanned by a plurality of generally parallel, laterally spaced cutting blades aligned with a plurality of slots in the anvil.

7. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein said cutting blades have rounded cutting edges to prevent the blades from cutting an operator's fingers.

8. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein opposite ends of said cutting blades are press-fit into grooves in the cast metal frame.

9. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said first pivot means include a readily removable pivot shaft to provide for easy dismantling of the slotted anvil from the base for cleaning purposes.

10. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said second pivot means
include a readily removable pivot shaft to provide for easy dismantling of the
cutting head from the base for cleaning purposes.

11. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein both said first and
second pivot means include readily removable pivot shaft means to provide
for easy dismantling of the slotted anvil and the cutting head from the base
for cleaning purposes.

12. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein both said first and
second pivot means include a common pivot shaft for both the slotted anvil
and the cutting head.

13. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein said common pivot
shaft comprises an elongated pivot pin having a manually graspable proximal
end and a distal end press fit into a pivot opening in the base to allow for
ready removal of the pivot pin and dismantling the slotted anvil and the
cutting head from the base for cleaning purposes.

14. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said first and second
pivot means include a pivot portion which is common to both pivot means.

15. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said slotted anvil is
disposed for pivotal movement beneath the pivotal movement of the cutting
head.

16. A manually-operated apparatus for slicing a food product,
2 comprising:

4 a generally flat base for supporting the apparatus on an
appropriate support surface and including a generally planar top surface;

6 a slotted anvil disposed on top of the base and including a
slotted support surface on which the food product is positioned, the anvil
including pedestal means for engaging the base and elevating the slotted
8 support surface above and generally parallel to the top surface of the base;

10 first pivot means pivotally mounting the slotted anvil on the
base for pivotal movement between a generally horizontal food-supporting
position and an elevated cleaning position allowing food particles to be
12 cleaned off of the base;

14 a cutting head having a case metal frame with a central
opening spanned by a plurality of generally parallel, laterally spaced cutting
blades aligned with a plurality of slots in the slotted support surface of the
16 anvil; and

18 second pivot means pivotally mounting the cutting head on the
base for pivotal movement between an elevated position allowing the food
product to be positioned on the slotted anvil and a lowered cutting position
20 whereat the cutting blades have sliced through the food product and into
slots in the anvil.

17. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said slotted anvil is a one-piece structure stamped and formed of sheet metal material and includes generally horizontal feet portions at opposite ends of the slotted support surface for engaging the base and generally vertical pedestal portions joining the feet portions to opposite ends of a slotted plate portion forming said slotted support surface.

18. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said cutting blades have rounded cutting edges to prevent the blades from cutting an operator's fingers.

19. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein opposite ends of said cutting blades are press-fit into grooves in the cast metal frame.

20. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said first pivot means include a readily removable pivot shaft to provide for easy dismantling of the slotted anvil from the base for cleaning purposes.

21. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said second pivot means include a readily removable pivot shaft to provide for easy dismantling of the cutting head from the base for cleaning purposes.

22. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein both said first and second pivot means include a common pivot shaft for both the slotted anvil and the cutting head.

23. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein said common pivot
2 shaft comprises an elongated pivot pin having a manually graspable proximal
end and a distal end press fit into a pivot opening in the base to allow for
4 ready removal of the pivot pin and dismantling the slotted anvil and the
cutting head from the base for cleaning purposes.

24. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said first and second
2 pivot means include a pivot portion which is common to both pivot means.

25. The apparatus of claim 24 wherein said slotted anvil is
2 disposed for pivotal movement beneath the pivotal movement of the cutting
head.

26. A manually-operated apparatus for slicing a food product,
comprising:

a base for supporting the apparatus on an appropriate support
surface;

an anvil disposed on top of the base and including a support
surface on which the food product is positioned;

a cutting head having a plurality of cutting blades for cutting
the food product; and

a common pivot means for pivotally mounting both the anvil
and the cutting head on the base, whereby the cutting head is mounted for
pivotal movement between an elevated position allowing the food product
to be positioned on the anvil and a lowered cutting position whereat the
cutting blades have sliced through the food product, and the anvil is
mounted for pivotal movement between a generally horizontal food-
supporting position and an elevated cleaning position allowing food products
to be cleaned off of the base.

27. The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said base is generally
flat and includes a generally planar top surface.

28. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the support surface of
the anvil is generally flat and generally parallel to the top surface of the
base.

29. The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said anvil includes
pedestal means for engaging the base and elevating the support surface of
the anvil above the base.

30. The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said cutting head
comprises a cast metal frame having a central opening spanned by a
plurality of generally parallel, laterally spaced cutting blades aligned with a
plurality of slots in the anvil.

31. The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said first pivot means
include a readily removable pivot shaft to provide for easy dismantling of the
anvil from the base for cleaning purposes.

32. The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said common pivot
means comprises an elongated pivot pin having a manually graspable
proximal end and a distal end press fit into a pivot opening in the base to
allow for ready removal of the pivot pin and dismantling the anvil and the
cutting head from the base for cleaning purposes.

33. The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said slotted anvil is
disposed for pivotal movement beneath the pivotal movement of the cutting
head.